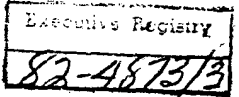


ER 82-4873/2
OEXA 82-1129/1

24 May 1982



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

[redacted]
Director, Office of External Affairs

STAT

SUBJECT:

[redacted] Proposed Intelligence Museum

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1. Action Requested: None; for information only.

2. Background: [redacted] is a former CIA employee who went on to finish his Government career at USICA. He has promoted the development of an intelligence museum for many years. He wrote you on 16 April 1982 asking for support for his long sought intelligence museum. He specifically asked for help in procuring a Federal site or facility, identifying CIA officers to assist him, support of requests for exhibit materials, and advice on approaching people and foundations for assistance.

STAT

The notion of an intelligence museum has been considered by successive DCI's since 1969 (see chronology). [redacted] proposal first came to CIA in 1977. After careful study it was determined that it would be inappropriate for CIA officially to sanction and support such a venture. [redacted] was encouraged to solicit the help of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers and/or Georgetown University's (Ray Cline's) Center for Strategic and International Studies. AFIO was unwilling or unable to support it then and remains unwilling today. Cline's group, however, formed the National Intelligence Studies Center and named [redacted] executive director, where he continued to promote the museum project. I am informed he was recently relieved of his duties and is no longer a member of the Board of NISC. His interest in the museum obviously continues.

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The reasons CIA should not sponsor this venture have not changed. Although Federally-sponsored museums exist, there is no known Government agency subsidization of a private museum such as [redacted] proposes. The Agency also found--during the Bicentennial and the 1977-78 Outreach program--that it had little to offer in the way of meaningful exhibit materials that were unclassified. More importantly, exhibiting intelligence materials in a museum would send the wrong signal to our foreign friends whom we are trying to convince their secrets are safe with us. In addition, possible legal issues notwithstanding, it remains that appropriated funds are not now available and, if requested, would have to compete with other outyear priorities. Finally, it is inevitable that CIA support would forever be perceived as domestic propaganda.

STAT

3. The following have participated in looking again at this issue and concur in this position:



John Bross

Chief, History Staff
Curator, Historical Intelligence Collection
Director, Center for Studies of Intelligence
Chief, Public Affairs Division
Deputy General Counsel
Special Assistant to the Director

STAT

4. Recommendation: None.



STAT